GUIDE FOR EXCHANGE STUDIES

GUIDE FOR EXCHANGE STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF OULU

Finland

WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF OULU

University of Oulu is an international science university where we create know-how for the future and produce new information to build a more sustainable, healthy and intelligent world.

Founded in 1958, University of Oulu is one of the largest universities in Finland and one of the northernmost multidisciplinary universities in the world, with 8 faculties, over 14,000 students, and nearly 3000 employees.

We educate competent experts capable of creating successful, lifelong careers in the dynamic work market. Our degree programmes are inspiring and student-centered, and they encourage each student to achieve their full academic potential. This has created a culture where anything is possible. As a fact, many innovations that have changed the world have their roots here in Oulu.

EXCHANGE STUDIES

STUDIES FOR EXCHANGE STUDENTS

- Faculty of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Humanities
- Faculty of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Technology
- Oulu School of Architecture
- Oulu Mining School
- Oulu Business School

AACSB ACCREDITED

Apply for exchange

All our faculties offer courses in English. Start planning your exchange by having a look at our offerings and contacting your home institution's international office. Exchange students can apply through existing exchange agreements. Once your home university has nominated you for exchange to the University of Oulu we will send you detailed instructions on how to leave your application online. The whole application process including acceptance letters is conveniently handled electronically.

Terms and application deadlines

Application instructions and login to our online application are sent through e-mail to students nominated by the home university.

Autumn term: September to mid-December
Spring term: early January to late May
end dates may vary between departments.
Application Deadlines:
April 30 for full academic year and autumn term
October 15 for spring term

Services

Housing for exchange students is mainly organised through the local student housing foundation PSOAS, although finding a room from the private markets is also possible. Active **student organisations** will guarantee international students a wide variety of social gatherings, trips near and far, and cultural adventures.

All exchange students are assigned a local student tutor, a Kummi, to help upon arrival and even before. Once in Oulu you will have a solid start to your exchange at the university wide **Orientation** week – a must for all international students. In addition to handling all practicalities under one roof you will also meet university staff, your departmental exchange coordinator and fellow exchange students during the Orientation.

You will also have access to Tuudo mobile app which is designed to help you manage your studies, find your location and way on campus and much more.

More information on exchange possibilities, courses and services:

www.oulu.fi/university/studentexchange

international.office@oulu.fi

University of Oulu

University of Oulu – Creating innovation for the future

Scandinavian and European university tradition meet a redefined innovation and pioneer spirit at the University of Oulu! An excellent reputation in research and teaching and it's ranked among the top international universities in the world. Its excellence in teaching and research has been recognized with the prestigious ECTS Label and the AACSB Accreditation. With ten faculties, University of Oulu is one of the largest universities in Finland, with a steadily growing number of international students and professors. Oulu is a youthful student city with tranquil surroundings and a Scandinavian ambience. Living in Oulu means an easy access to both high technology and nature. In Oulu, you have the opportunity to live in a safe and active environment.

Our researchers contribute to solving global challenges by combining multidisciplinary approaches, high level research and fruitful collaborations in the following five focus areas:

- Creating sustainability through materials and systems
- Molecular and environmental basis for lifelong health
- Digital solutions in sensing and interactions
- Earth and near-space system and environmental change
- Understanding humans in change

AACSB ACCREDITED

University facts

- founded in 1958
- 14 000 students
- 3000 staff members
- two campuses: Linnanmaa and Kontinkangas
- International degree students: 1015 (in 2018)
- Exchange students: 564 (in 2018)

See also: **www.oulu.fi/university**

Science with Arctic Attitude

Pushing the boundaries of the known for a more sustainable, healthy and intelligent world

A unique environment for students from different disciplines to enjoy learning

Our educational mission is to provide higher education based on research, and to educate youth to serve society and humanity. The overall aim is to further improve the quantitative and qualitative results and impact of education. Our approach is to develop education as an integral part of our scientific activity towards the following strategic aims:

1. High-quality degree programmes attract engaged students

Education at the University of Oulu relies on an international research base, produces academic competence relevant for future working life, and takes advantage of the strengths and networks of the multidisciplinary university. Our degree programmes are inspiring, student-centred and encourage each student to achieve their full academic potential.

2. Smooth studying processes

Our degree programmes enable a smooth studying process with clear goals and a high success rate at all levels. The number of students passing at least 55 ECTS annually remains the highest in Finland. We encourage our students to take an active role in creating the learning process. The assessment of students reflects this approach. Customer-oriented, efficient student services and learning support tools enable the student to concentrate fully on the joy of learning.

3. Modern, digitalized learning environments and pedagogic development

Our pedagogically skillful staff rely on the latest research knowledge in teaching to create an inspiring studying atmosphere. Support activities and facilities match the needs of a diverse student population.

4. Structures supporting cooperation with working life

We educate competent experts capable of creating successful, lifelong careers in the dynamic work market. Contacts with working life are developed through the Open University, lifelong learning, working life practice coordination and specialisation education. The advantages of a multidisciplinary university are promoted for minor studies selection.

5. Systematic doctoral education

Doctoral training is coordinated by a university-wide graduate school. It offers transferable skills courses, and field-specific training in doctoral programmes that embrace research excellence. Personal study plans, combined with skilled supervision, enable graduation in four years and aid doctorate students to demonstrate clear research impact during their thesis projects.

UniOulu Experience

University of Oulu welcomes hundreds of international students each year. We meet and greet all new students in the **Orientation**. You also get to meet your fellow students, both international and Finnish.

UniOulu takes care of individuals. At your department you will have a **personal academic contact** who can be addressed casually by their first name and who will help you with making your individual study plan. A well prepared study plan is a valuable tool to make progress in your studies.

You also get to meet your **kummi**, your first student colleague, online even before arriving. Kummis are senior students, trained to help you in the beginning to get accustomed to daily life in Oulu.

Student housing

The local student housing foundation PSOAS offers a wide range of accommodation possibilities, from shared apartments to studios, around the city area. No matter where you live in Oulu, services ranging from supermarkets to libraries and sport facilities are close to your home. PSOAS is ranked by students as one of the leading housing providers in the world.

Tellus Innovation Arena

Tellus Innovation Arena is an open innovation space located at the heart of Linnanmaa campus area. It's built for learning, collaboration and events for all open-minded explorers from inside and outside of the university. Meet people, develop ideas and present projects – it makes all the difference.

Health services

Student health services for all Bachelor and Master level students are located at the Linnanmaa campus. Health services include medical, mental, and dental treatment. Most services are free of charge while some incur a nominal fee.

Student organisations

Student organisations are experts in organising cultural activities, sporting events, parties, and trips. These study-field-specific organisations have internationally experienced members with first-hand knowledge to share. In addition, there are two university-wide student organisations with special interest in issues in international education.

University sports

Finns are sports enthusiasts. The university offers sports activities for its students and staff ranging from ballet to climbing and yoga, from kayaking to cross-country skiing. Feel free to pick the one that is closest to your body and soul!

My UniOulu

"My studies in Oulu is not just about theories and lectures but building everlasting relationships that will definitely help in building my future career."

Modou,
International Business Management

"I was fascinated by its multidisciplinarity and found the study programme which got me interested. Besides, Oulu seemed like a great city to live in. Now, after 2 years of being here, my feeling of belonging is as strong as ever."

Sergei,
Learning, Education and Technology

"We were able to face winter in a very beautiful way, which allowed me to enjoy this incredible and magical season. I never appreciated the cold before coming to Oulu, but there, I loved it. Winter is so different from my home and offers us so many beautiful things to see, such as light pillars, northern lights or simply these whitish expanses."

Manon,,
Humanities

"I chose Oulu as an exchange student because I wanted to study in a place that was very different from my home. I returned here for my master studies because of the friends I made, the wonderful nature and the degree programme that suited my interests."

Márta,
Learning, Education and Technology

"I like the friendly and welcoming atmosphere in Oulu. The studies are really flexible and goal oriented."

Hasan,
Software, Systems and Services Development in Global Environment

Finland – the world's best kept secret

One of the world's most peaceful countries

The country of thousands of lakes, Lapland wilderness, and high technology cities, Finland has been recently ranked as one of the most peaceful, competitive and happiest countries in the world. Finland has a diversified modern industrial economy and the income per capita is among the highest in Western Europe.

Modern welfare state

A member of the European Union since 1995, Finland was the only Nordic state to join the Euro system at its initiation in January 1999. Today, the key features of Finland's modern welfare state are a high standard of education, equality promotion, and national social security system.

Easy access

From Finland you have easy access to Asia, Russia, other Nordic countries, and Continental Europe. The two official languages, Finnish and Swedish, are complemented with English as many Finns speak fluent English.

Finland

- has 5.5 million inhabitants, 17.9 inhabitants per square kilometre
- is one of the leading countries in internet and mobile phone use
- has ca. 2 000 000 saunas
- has exactly 187 888 lakes
- is the home of sauna, sisu, Angry Birds, Supercell, Marimekko, Nokia, Alvar Aalto and Santa Claus
- has one of the highest educational participation rates in the world

Finns

- are among the biggest coffee drinkers
- are among the biggest ice-cream eaters
- claim sports as their favourite leisure time activity

Oulu

The creatively innovative arctic attitude

A youthful student city, Oulu is of comfortable size, it has tranquil surroundings and a Scandinavian ambience. Living in Oulu means easy access to both high technology and wild nature. Museums, architecture, cinemas, clubs, festivals, concerts, theatres, libraries – the arts and culture of Oulu have many venues. Polar Bear Pitching, Oulu Music Video Festival and Air Guitar World Championships are just a few examples of the creatively innovative northern attitude.

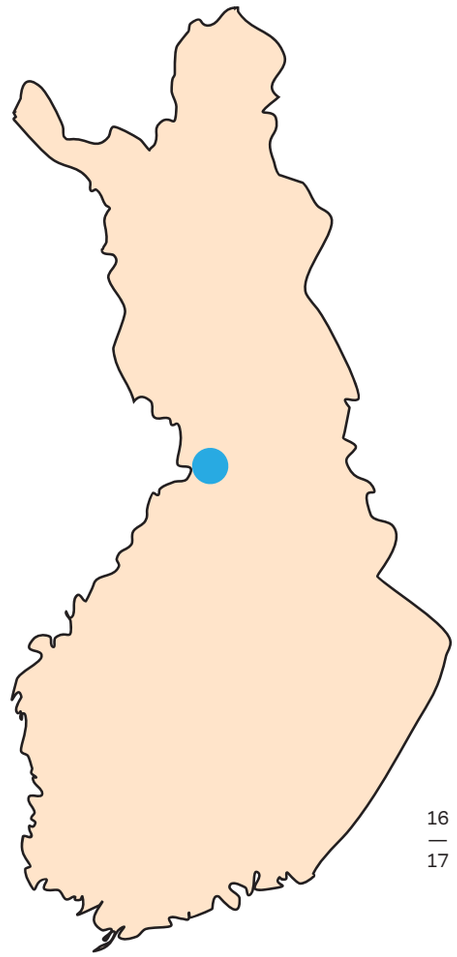
120 different nationalities

In Oulu, you have the opportunity to live in a safe and active environment. Already 120 different nationalities call Oulu their home. The Oulu region is the fastest growing region in Finland.

Collaboration between the University of Oulu, the city, research institutes, and businesses has been remarkably productive. For a large number of companies, Oulu has been a favourable environment for their R&D and the region has played a vital role in Finland's technological lead.

Oulu

- 65°01 N, 25°48 E
- is the largest city in Northern Scandinavia
- has the youngest population in Finland
- has the population of 200 000
- has 28 000 higher education students
- is located on the shore of the Bay of Bothnia, along the Oulu River
- is the Winter Cycling Capital of the World
- was founded in 1605 by King Carl IX of Sweden



10 Reasons for Choosing Oulu

Are you considering exchange studies in the University of Oulu, or is someone asking you why you have chosen us? Here's why and what you should tell them!

1. Location.

How cool is north? Oulu has a perfect location in the north with close distances to all Arctic destinations and good connections to the rest of Finland. Despite its northern location, Oulu still isn't remote; the city is vibrant and has an active student life!

2. Excellent university rankings.

The University of Oulu is one of the world's leading universities ranked in the top 3 percent of all the 17,000 universities of the world. Here you will get world class education.

3. High-quality research.

Studying here puts you in the center of groundbreaking research: all our eight faculties and award-winning research units provide our students an exceptional environment for learning and innovating.

4. Safety and Reliability.

Finland is a very safe country. Students here feel safe riding a bike, walking or travelling by bus during day and night, but it's always good to remember general cautiousness.

5. Finnish people.

Typically Finnish people are known to be honest, punctual, hard-working and reliable, but they sure know how to relax also! At first, Finns might seem shy or introverted but when you get to know them, you will gain a true friend for a lifetime.

6. The Nature, Peace and Cleanliness.

Finland is known for its pure nature, peace and space. The environment here is stress-free and calm. The transfer from urban spaces to nature in Oulu is amazingly short. You can get from your home to and from the University to the forests and by the waters in 5–15 minutes and relax after a busy day!

7. Bullying and Harassment free university.

University of Oulu does not tolerate bullying or harassment. Study in an environment that supports equality and non-discrimination.

8. Ecological commuting.

Oulu has the widest biking network in Finland. Around 20 percent of all trips in Oulu are made by bicycle. It's eco-friendly, cost-effective and good for your health. Many of our students even bike throughout the year!

9. Get a good-looking mark on your CV.

Not everyone has been here and not everyone knows what life is like in the north. Being a forerunner makes you interesting! Use your experience here as an asset to set you apart from others in the international competition.

10. Arctic Attitude.

Our northern location requires Arctic Attitude - a state of mind for never giving up and working together. Here you will learn to seize opportunities and go through challenges with positive and determined mind! Are you up for the challenge?

facebook.com/unioulu

instagram.com/unioulu

twitter.com/unioulu

UniOulu

youtube.com/UniversityOfOulu

UNIVERSITY
OF OULU

Finland